

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 4, 2005

LB 425

you need some time to get that information, I can wait.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you. I've just been clarifying that issue. TANF funds are, as we say, Temporary Aid for Needy Families. And we get this money as a result of efforts that we have made working with welfare families. And it's a bonus that they give you for what you have done to attempt to help these people.

SENATOR PREISTER: So as we have provided some assistance to needy families, we have provided some of those services, then, as a result of doing a good job in that, we're given, essentially, bonus money, and we're given it in amounts that the federal government determines we have earned, essentially?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: That's correct. And part of the reason why...if you don't mind, part of the reason why we preserved money in that was because it takes effort in showing in working to establish what you have done in this regard, to establish your bona fides in obtaining that kind of money.

SENATOR PREISTER: That helps me to understand that this isn't just a grant. Because where I was coming from was, would these funds be taken back if we didn't use them? Would these funds not be available in the future? From what I hear you saying, or I think you're saying, is, we've gotten these funds, they've been given to us, and it's now at our discretion how we use them within those federal guidelines.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: That's correct. And as I said, the reason that we wanted to preserve additional funds is so that we can establish our need for future use of funds such as this.

SENATOR PREISTER: So where we have set a priority on the home visitations that Senator Howard had introduced, the Appropriations Committee determined that was a good use of the funds, and allocated, I believe, \$400,000 for those visitations. The remaining bonus money is sitting there to continue home visitations, or to do some of these other programs in the future?